

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 208615  
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 PA-02 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
ICA-20 TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 /072 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT/WAROOT:TLW  
APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT/WAROOT  
EUR/P - MR. GEHRON  
S/PRS - MR. SHAPIRO

-----118658 171445Z /47

R 170012Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 208615

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC , COCOM

SUBJECT: TASS COMPUTER

REF: A) STATE 188214; B) TOKYO 14798

1. THE AUGUST 21 ISSUE OF BUSINESS WEEK, WHICH CAME OUT  
AUGUST 14, REPORTS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE IS SEEKING  
COOPERATION FROM THE BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, AND JAPANESE  
GOVERNMENTS TO ENFORCE A BAN ON THE SALE OF A U.S. COMPUTER  
TO TASS. THE AUGUST 15 WASHINGTON POST CARRIES A SIMILAR  
STORY.

2. AT THE AUGUST 15 PRESS BRIEFING THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S  
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SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT WE HAVE SOUGHT PARALLEL ACTION  
FROM THESE FOUR GOVERNMENTS. HE DECLINED TO ANSWER ANY  
FURTHER QUESTIONS EXCEPT A GENERAL ONE ON COCOM, AS  
FOLLOWS:

Q. WELL, THE UNITED STATES HAS A VETO IN ANY CASE TO  
COCOM; RIGHT?

A. JUST TALKING GENERALLY ABOUT COCOM--I MEAN I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT THIS CASE--THE FACT IS THAT IT IS CONSENTUAL. I MEAN IT HAS TO BE BY CONSENSUS.

Q. SO IN EFFECT WE DO HAVE A VETO?

A. IF IT IS TO DETERMINE THAT A PARTICULAR PIECE OF EQUIPMENT HAS SECURITY IMPLICATIONS, YES.

DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN AUGUST 16 ANSWERED QUESTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

Q. HODDING, THERE IS A REPORT ALONG THE SAME LINES ON THE FBIS TODAY, THE SUGGESTION THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO FOLLOW SUIT IN DENYING THE SALE OF A COMPUTER TO THE SOVIET UNION TO TASS.

A. I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THAT. I WOULD SUGGEST YOU LOOK AT ALL THE REPORTS COMING OUT OF FRANCE AND ELSEWHERE.

Q. YOU ALSO SUGGESTED YESTERDAY THAT THE COMPUTER SALE IS BEING TURNED DOWN BECAUSE OF SECURITY REASONS. IS THAT CORRECT?

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A. I DON'T REMEMBER PRECISELY WHAT I SAID, BUT THAT WOULD BE THE BASIC ASSUMPTION IN SUCH A TURNDOWN. I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO REFER TO WHAT SPOKESMEN IN OTHER GOVERNMENTS SAY ABOUT THIS.

Q. I JUST WANT TO SEE IF I CAN GET IT CLEARLY SAID HERE THAT WE OPPOSE THIS SALE OF A COMPUTER TO TASS, BECAUSE IT THREATENS THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

A. NO. YOU KNOW, THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS OF DEFINING THE REASONS FOR SUCH A STEP. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO TURN IT DOWN. THE REASONS WERE GIVEN AT THE TIME IT WAS TURNED DOWN, AND THOSE REASONS ARE VALID AND I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO PULL THEM. THEY STILL STAND -- I'M NOT MAKING UP ANY NEW ONES. I'LL BE HAPPY TO GO BACK AND READ THROUGH THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE TIME. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 208615  
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/SOV:JL COLBERT

APPROVED BY:EUR/SOV:JL COLBERT

-----056562 191519Z /14

R 190410Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9039

UNCLAS STATE 208615

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 208615 ACTION BONN LONDON  
PARIS TOKYO 17 AUG 78.

QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 208615

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: ORIGINAL DIST.: EB/PA,EXCO,EUR,EA.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SALES, COMPUTERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, EXPORT CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE208615  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TLW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780336-0724  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780853/aaaabsdl.tel  
**Line Count:** 224  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d09efc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 188214, 78 TOKYO 14798  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 aug 2006  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TASS COMPUTER  
**TAGS:** ESTC, US, GE, UK, FR, JA, COCOM  
**To:** BONN LONDON MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014